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## BREAKING NEWS

- According to the latest data available from the Department of Health Services, Wisconsin now has 17,707 confirmed positive cases of the COVID-19 virus and 568 confirmed deaths. 233,588 negative test results have been reported. There was a record 13,602 tests results, and 5.4% of them returned positive. DHS is also now providing information on the recovery status of COVID-19 confirmed cases – find the data here.
  - According to the Wisconsin Hospital Association, there are 423 total COVID-19 patients in our hospitals – a 15-patient increase over the last 24 hours.
  - DHS has released new data on facility-wide public health investigations and outbreaks in areas across the state. Currently, there are 446 COVID-19 facility-wide investigations and outbreaks.
  - Click here for more information on COVID-19 data through DHS.

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## DAILY UPDATES – MAY 29, 2020

### State Updates:

- Due to Wisconsin's increased unemployment rate, additional unemployment benefits may be available to those who have exhausted their previous benefits through the Extended Benefit program. Learn more here.

- [UW-System President Ray Cross announced dozens of layoffs](#), citing financial challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The [Wisconsin Department of Children and Families estimates that 25% of child care programs will close](#) as a result of COVID-19.
- Children's Wisconsin has identified the first suspected case of Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), a new and rare inflammatory response thought to be linked to COVID-19, in Wisconsin. [Read more here.](#)
- [Sheboygan manufacturer Wigwam Mills will be permanently laying off a "vast majority" of its workforce](#) due to the impact of COVID-19.
- [The Wisconsin National Guard's specimen collection teams, consisting of more than 600 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen, are operating across Wisconsin to increase testing capacity](#), with Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Lafayette, Marathon, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, St. Croix, Sheboygan, Walworth, and Winnebago Counties currently having ongoing testing site operations.
- [The Department of Workforce Development \(DWD\) reports that 3,717 initial applications were filed for unemployment insurance on Thursday, May 28, bringing the weekly total to 18,607.](#)
  - Since the start of the pandemic, over 600,000 unemployment claims have been filed in Wisconsin.
  - DWD is currently receiving an unprecedented number of applications for benefits. In order to meet demand, those needing to [file unemployment insurance claims are encouraged to do so through the Department's website.](#) A number of frequently asked questions and answers is also available on this site. The phone lines remain open to applicants, but they may experience longer-than-usual delays.
- Those seeking employment may still do so by [registering on JobCenterofWisconsin.com.](#) The website will continue to be updated often as new jobs arise.

### Federal Updates:

- The United States Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for the Coronavirus Food assistance Program. Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2020. [For more information, including the application form and a payment calculator, click here.](#)
- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released the first in a series of six Cyber Essential Toolkits, aimed at helping small businesses and government agencies understand and address cybersecurity risks. [Learn more here.](#)

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### *Helpful Resources*

- [The Assembly GOP Caucus has launched a GOP COVID-19 webpage.](#) It will serve as a resource for up-to-date information, links to DHS and CDC information, graphics, and more.
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has [released guides for information and communications technology supply chain risk management.](#)
- [The Federal Emergency Management Agency has created the Coronavirus Rumor Control page](#) to help folks distinguish between rumors and facts.
- [Wisconsin Emergency Management has created a map](#) showcasing local health orders in place across the state.

### *Education*

- Per the Wisconsin Supreme Court's May 13<sup>th</sup> ruling, K-12 schools across the state will remain closed for the duration of the 2019-20 school year.
  - Previous to this ruling, Governor Evers had closed schools statewide beginning on March 18, 2020.

- Colleges around the state, including the University of Wisconsin System, remain closed for most on-campus coursework and continue to make plans for altered instructional plans for the fall of 2021. [The UW System has provided a campus-by-campus look at the work being done to return ahead of the fall semester.](#)
- The Department of Public Instruction has a list of resources available to parents and school district personnel to help children dealing with mental health needs during the pandemic. [Click here.](#)

### ***Businesses***

- Unless under a local order by public health officials, all Wisconsin businesses are now permitted to operate and resume activity. Out of caution, businesses are encouraged to [adhere to best-practices as prescribed by the Center for Disease Control.](#)
  - [Additionally, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation has outlined a number of industry-specific guidelines to help businesses reopen their doors.](#)
- [The Department of Workforce Development has provided a FAQ on the state's Work-Share program](#) – aimed at avoiding layoffs and allowing workers to remain employed during periods of reduced business.
- [Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce has compiled a COVID-19 Employer Toolkit](#) to help employers and workers navigate the recent state and federal policy changes related to COVID-19.
- [The Department of Health Services has provided tips](#) for business owners and employees for coping with COVID.
- The Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Department of Treasury, has issued a [FAQ on Paycheck Protection Program loans.](#)

### ***Mental Health***

- [Resilient Wisconsin](#), a new page from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, has consolidated the latest mental and behavioral health self-care tools and trauma-informed practices.

- [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's COVID-19 webpage](#) includes advice and guidance from mental health and suicide prevention experts.
- [NAMI Wisconsin has launched a website with COVID-19 resources related to mental health.](#)

### ***Dining***

- Unless closed by a local order by a public health office, all bars and restaurants in the state are now permitted to open their doors to customers.
  - The [Wisconsin Restaurant Association has worked to compile a list of participating restaurants](#) that are offering curbside pickup or delivery for guests.
  - [The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation has offered guidance for restaurants in the state to safely reopen.](#)

### ***Ways You Can Help***

- Give Blood – [click here](#) to find a blood drive/donation center near you.
  - The Red Cross has indicated cancellations of blood appointments are at record highs. Encourage others to donate if they are healthy.
- Local food banks are asking for your assistance.
- The United Way and other [groups have created an online portal for those looking for volunteering opportunities in their community.](#)
- [Help your local small businesses.](#) Grab a meal for take-out or buy gift cards and shop online from local businesses to help them stay afloat during this time of uncertainty.
- Volunteer to pick up groceries or prescriptions for elderly in your community, or volunteer with a local organization who provides these services (i.e.: Meals on Wheels).
- Limit stockpiling, as grocery stores will remain open.

### ***Services***

- Internet:

- [Charter is providing free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days](#) to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription and at any service level up to 100 Mbps. To enroll, call 1-844-488-8395
- [Comcast is increasing speeds from 15/2 Mbps to 25/3 Mbps for all customers, and new customers are receiving two months of free service.](#) More information on Comcast's Internet Essentials program can be [found here](#).
- [TDS is providing free broadband access](#) for new K-12, college student households for 60 days.
- Unemployment Insurance:
  - Information relating to unemployment benefits and COVID-19 can be found on the [Dept. of Workforce Development's informational page](#).
    - Applicants are encourage to apply for benefits online.
  - [Self-employed individuals who may otherwise be ineligible for regular unemployment insurance may also be eligible for assistance under the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance \(PUA\) program.](#) Find out more and how to apply [here](#).
  - According to a [recent news article](#), more than 675,000 unemployment claims in Wisconsin still remain unpaid.
- Housing:
  - The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) has a [FAQ for homeowners, renters, and housing providers in response to COVID-19](#). The FAQ is being updated as new information arises.
- Kids:
  - The [Department of Children and Families has developed new resources](#) to connect families with locally available childcare.
    - Families in dire need of child care can [fill out this form](#).
    - Families can search for available care [using this map](#).

- [The Department of Children and Families is administering a grant program for child care providers. Find out more and learn how to apply.](#)
- [Scholastic offers free online courses for children.](#)
- [50 activities parents can do with their kids during shutdown.](#)